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EXTERNAL - POLITICAL

1. Laos. On April 6 Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Kuznetsov transmitted an aide memoire to British Ambassador Roberts containing the Soviet government's reply to the British March 23 proposals on Laos. It seems likely that the Soviets expect these latest proposals to lead to peaceful settlement of the Laotian crisis and the Soviet press has cited favorable comment from Washington, Peiping, and Hanoi, as well as from Pathet Lao leader Souphanouvong. However, virtually no detail has been provided in the press about areas where agreement still remains to be reached before the series of steps leading to a peaceful settlement would be set in motion. The press also has not reported on Souvanna Phouma's activities in Paris and London and, while saying little about military activities in Laos itself, did indicate that the Pathet Lao and Kong Le troops were still on the offensive and that American material support is still reaching Phoumi's forces.

The Soviet press on April 6 reported a press conference held by Chicom Foreign Minister Chen Yi in Djakarta in which he said that Communist China would not permit SEATO intervention in Laos to go "unnoticed" if there was an appeal concerning this from Souvanna Phouma to the Chinese government. He also referred threateningly to the common border between Laos and Communist China and to the presence of Chinese Nationalist forces in Laos. This is the first instance that the Soviet press has reported such statements which, from time to time, have been made about Laos by the Chicoms since fighting began in Laos last December. It seems unlikely that Chinese press conference in Djakarta would have been mentioned in the Soviet press, had the Soviet press not already created a definite impression that the Laotian crisis is well along the way toward a peaceful settlement.

2. Sino-Soviet Relations. Following the conspicuously low-level Chinese Communist representation at the Warsaw Pact meeting last week, there appeared several further indications--concealed, but still recognizable--of continuing Sino-Soviet difficulties over concrete issues. As indicated above, the press disclosed the possibility of a more intransigeant Chicom posture on Laos and less disposition to see a negotiated settlement than is believed to be the case with the Soviets. The annual trade negotiations between Moscow and Peiping, which have been conducted partly in both capitals, are still continuing. Although Khrushchev met with the head of the Chicom delegation on April 4 and although this was reported together with a photograph in the press, an agreement has not yet been consummated, which gives the impression that negotiations have been unusually difficult. Regarding the Sino-Indian border dispute, Pravda published an article by Indian Communist Party leader Ghosh which indicated that this problem creates difficulties for the Indian Communist Party--in effect criticism of the Chinese Communist position. On the ideological debate front, the Soviet theoretical journal Kommunist in the latest issue resumes the attack on dogmatism in a manner which closely resembled Khrushchev's treatment of the subject in his speech at the 1960 Rumanian party congress. The timing of this attack, which presumably is aimed at the Chinese, may be tied to the Warsaw Pact meeting last week or possibly to behind-the-scenes disputes throughout the world movement on issues involved on the adoption of a new CPSU program.

3. Indian CP Congress. Presidium member Suslov's presence attested to the importance the Soviets attach to the Sixth Indian CP Congress, and an article by Secretary General Ghosh in Pravda (Apr. 5) gave insight into some of the problems likely to arise at the Congress. Ghosh's article was noteworthy for the frankness with which he discussed the harmful effects of the Indian-Chicom border dispute on the position of his party in Indian political life. Equally noteworthy was the fact that he did not criticize the Indian Government, thus leaving the impression that the onus for failure to settle the issue rested on the Chicoms. On the other hand, Ghosh did not mince words in criticizing India's policy on Congo and anti-imperialism generally, and so brought into the open for the Soviet public an aspect of Soviet-Indian relations which has been passed over in silence or only hinted at discreetly in the press.

4. Pushtunistan. A Pravda (Apr. 3) "Observer" article once again--as in the paper's Mar. 25 article--reaffirmed Soviet support for Pushtun self-determination through a plebiscite, condemned Pakistani military measures against the Pushtuns, and made the point that the USSR could not be indifferent to a situation in the immediate vicinity of its borders. "Observer" contrasted the allegedly restrained Afghan handling of the issue with Pakistani determination to impose a solution by force. The article referred to reports that eight Pakistani divisions armed with US weapons were "aimed" at the Pushtun areas and the "corresponding part of the Afghan frontier," and hinted at outside aggressive influences on Karachi's foreign policy.

The strong Soviet expression of support for Afghanistan in the dispute was all the more pointed in view of the arrival of Prime Minister Daud in Moscow April 4. He was met at the airport by a large group of top-level Soviets, including Khrushchev and two other Presidium members, and met again with Khrushchev April 5. There were no indications how long Daud intended to stay.

5. Nuclear Test Talks. The most significant development of the week, the Western four-point proposal, was given an extremely cold reception in the Soviet press. Pravda (Apr. 6) contended that Western evasion "on formal and improper pretexts" of the Soviet proposal to record agreement on principle on the four points raised doubts as to Western sincerity in furthering progress in the talks. Izvestiya was hardly less severe. It asserted that the Western proposal could be a positive factor, but only if it were embodied in a recorded agreement without qualifications and supplementary conditions. In this connection, it referred disingenuously to a statement by Ormsby-Gore that the West would not make any conditions in putting forward proposals after the renewal of the talks.

6. Nigeria. Pravda announced Apr. 3 that following an exchange of messages between Prime Minister Balewa and Foreign Minister Gromyko, agreement had been reached on an exchange of diplomatic missions at ambassadorial level. The Nigerians were said to have agreed that the Soviets could open an embassy at any time, and Moscow would presumably be quick to take advantage of the offer.

7. Visits. The press announced April 4 that Khrushchev and Modeiba Keita, Mali Prime Minister, have agreed on an exchange of visits, the dates to be settled through diplomatic channels. The announcement referred to Khrushchev's "forthcoming" visit to several African countries, but there was still no indication, either in the press or from other sources, when the visit was scheduled.

The Burmese Commander-in-Chief, General Ne Win, continued to be given the familiar red-carpet treatment provided high-level military visitors. He had a meeting with Khrushchev Mar. 31, and after some days in Moscow arrived in Leningrad April 4. He was reported in the press as scheduled for visits to towns in other parts of the USSR.

Mohammed Osman Yasin, Sudanese deputy foreign minister, was reported in the press to have met April 5 with Presidium member Kosygin. There was no indication of the scope of the conversation.

A Soviet delegation headed by candidate Presidium member Kirilenko left April 1 for Budapest for celebrations of the 16th anniversary of the Soviet World War II victory in Hungary.

INTERNAL (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

8. Leadership. With the exception of Presidium Member N. M. SHVERNIK (who has not been reported active for over a month) and Candidate-member V. P. MZHVANADZE (who is probably busy as Party First Secretary in Georgia), all members of the top leadership were accounted for during the course of the past week which saw a fair amount of activity. N. S. KHRUSHCHEV, having pressed hard at regional meetings for agricultural reform and for the rooting out of corrupt or inept leaders, turned to other matters. The press, however, continued to reverberate with full-page exhortations on corn-growing, dismissals of party and government functionaries at various levels and creation of new "streamlined" agricultural institutions along Khrushchevian guide lines. Khrushchev himself attended a number of protocol functions and on three occasions took Mrs. Khrushchev along with him. Pravda announced on April 4 that the Soviet leader's projected African trip would now be expanded to include Mali. Foreign travel of the leadership currently in progress during the week included M. A. SUSLOV, who is representing the CPSU at the Indian CP in New Delhi, and Candidate-member of the Presidium A. P. KIRILENKO, who heads the CPSU delegation to Hungary during the 16th anniversary of "liberation" from occupation.

With full members A. I. MIKOYAN and O. V. KUUSINEN less active, other Moscow-resident leaders divided protocol activity among them. Press accounts of an eleven-member group inspection tour of projected monuments and building projects were notable because Presidium Candidate Member (and former CC Secretary and former Member of CC Bureau for the RSFSR) P. N. POSPELOV was not listed first among candidate-members (as has been customary) but alphabetically after G. I. VORONOV and V. V. GRISHIN. This may be less due to his having "slipped" and more to the good standing that the latter two (relatively new) members of the Presidium enjoy with Khrushchev.

Non-Moscow members were attending to affairs at home. Belorussia First Secretary and Candidate-member K. T. MAZUROV, was in Minsk, while Ukrainian First Secretary and full member N. V. PODGORNYY was busy with a republic meeting of Oblast First Secretaries, many of whom are brand-new following ousters resulting from agricultural criticisms in the Ukraine. Candidate-member Ya. E. KALNBERZIN, who attended a Latvian meeting of "intelligentsia" in his role as Chairman of the Presidium of the Latvian Supreme Soviet, was also probably preoccupied with party difficulties in his home area.

9. Purge in Latvia. On March 30 Latvian CP Chief A. Ya. PEL'SHE gave a final address before the recent Latvian plenum (SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA, March 31). He exposed the same tale of padded accounts, cheating the state in agricultural deliveries, "errors," and anti-state activitity so common to the post-January Plenum Party scene and strikingly reminiscent of other scandals exposed recently.

In Latvia, high officials, including several republic CC members were said to be involved. V. Ya. KUPCH, a "future" raion first secretary was expelled from the CC as was CC Candidate-member P. Ya. SKREYVERIS. "Severe party punishment" was inflicted on another raion first secretary, and upon yet two more in the CC. At lower levels Pel'she indicated that criminal action would be taken against others.

Latvian CC Secretary A. I. MIGLINIK was released from his duties by the Plenum and also from membership in the bureau. Supposedly, he was released "at his request in connection with his poor state of health," which, of course, could be true. He was replaced by V. P. LEYN who was elected to the CC only last year. Leyn was gorispolkom chairman (mayor) of Liyepaya city in 1955.

In short, the plenum followed the pattern of others recently reported. Generous acknowledgment was showered on N. S. Khrushchev whose search for effective agricultural management probably sparked First Secretary Pel'she's purge of his party.

The plenum also confirmed R. O. VERRO as CC Section Chief for Agriculture, set September 26 as the date for the coming XVIII Party Congress, and spelled out the agenda corresponding to all other pre-XVII Congress, CPSU Republic congress agendas.

10. Formation of New Agricultural Organs Nears Completion. On March 30 the Republics of Armenia and Azerbaydzhan formed Ministries of (Agricultural) Procurement. According to Embassy records only Kirgizia and Turkmenistan have not as yet organized comparable Ministries or State Committees.

On the same date the Presidium of the Kirgiz Supreme Soviet by ukaz formed "Kirgisel'khoztekhnika" the "middle-man" farm supply organ suggested by Khrushchev and now found in every Republic except Georgia and Turkmenistan. Doubtless the remaining Republics will soon follow suit. Personnel designations noted in connection with these and related earlier developments are:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ABDULLAYEV, A. A. (was Tadzhik Min of Agriculture) | Chrm: Tadzhiksel'Khoztekhnik (established Mar. 28) | Designated March 28 (Kommunist (Tad), March 30, 1961) |
| G'BEYNOV, M. A. (Long time member of USSR Union of Writers) | Min: Ministry of (Agri) Procurement, Azerbaydzhan | Designated March 30 (Bakinskiy Robochiy, March 31, 1961) |
| KUB'YAS, E. A. (was Estonia CC Section Chief, Agriculture) | Chrm: State Committee of (Agric) Procurement of the C of Min of Estonia. | Designated on/about March 25 (Sovetskaya Estoniya, Apr. 12) |
| GUSEV, S. Ye (No record in Embassy) | Chrm: Kirgizsel'Khoztekhnika | Designated March 30 (Sovetskaya Kirgiziya, March 310 |

11. Kazakhstan: 40 years of Soviet Power. The Kazakhstan Party and Government have announced that the 40th anniversary of accession to power of the Soviet government will be celebrated June 10-11, 1961. (Pravda Vostoka, April 4, 1961). Similar celebrations have already been announced for Armenia and Georgia (see Weeka No. 6, Feb. 10, 1961).

12. New Kazakh Administration. On March 30, by an ukase of the Supreme Soviet, Kazakhstan followed other republics and created a "Main Administration of Forest Economy and Forest Conservation." (Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, March 31). The move is in keeping with attention given other aspects of agriculture in the republic recently and with the growing concern in the USSR for conservation of resources of all kinds.

By ukase of the same date, S. DZHAKIPOV, concerning whom the Embassy has no information, was designated Adm. _stration Chief.

MILITARY

Negative.

FOR THE AMBASSADOR:

Boris H. Klosson

Boris H. Klosson
Counselor for Political Affairs

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